

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve for a bus bar connection that is used to connect two switchboard sections of a gas-insulated switchboard system, wherein:
~~in which~~ the connecting sleeve is an insulating, elastic material that is in the form of a tube; ~~characterized in that~~
the connecting sleeve has an outer, electrically conductive surface that is grounded, and an inner, electrically conductive surface ~~to which the voltage potential of the bus bar is applied;~~ and
~~in that~~ the connecting sleeve has a coupling electrode that is imbedded in the insulating material .
2. (Original) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1, wherein the coupling electrode has a sensor surface that is tangential to the outer surface.
3. (Original) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1, wherein the coupling electrode is so imbedded in the insulating material that the coupling electrode is electrically insulated from the inner surface and from the outer surface, the coupling electrode having an edge area that overlaps the outer surface, at least in part.

4. (Original) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1, wherein the coupling electrode is connected to a plug connector that is positioned in an opening that is surrounded by the insulating material.
5. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 4, wherein the plug connector can be connected to a mating element ; and in that the opening is matched to the outer shape of this ~~counter element~~ mating element so as to form a dust-proof plug-type connection.
6. (Currently Amended) Bus bar connection with a connecting sleeve to connect two switchboard sections of a gas-insulated switchboard system, wherein: ~~in which~~ the connecting sleeve is of an insulating, elastic material and is in the form of a tube;~~;~~ ~~wherein~~ the connecting sleeve has an outer, electrically conductive surface that is grounded, and an inner, electrically conductive surface ~~to which the voltage potential of the bus bar is applied; and in that~~ the connecting sleeve has a coupling electrode that is imbedded in the insulating material.
7. (Currently Amended) Gas-insulated switchboard system, in particular a gas-insulated medium-voltage switchboard system, with at least two switchboard sections that are connected to one another through a bus bar connection that incorporates a connecting sleeve, wherein: the connecting sleeve ~~being~~ is of an insulating, elastic material and ~~being~~ is in the form of a tube;~~;~~ wherein

the connecting sleeve has an outer, electrically conductive surface that is grounded, and an inner, electrically conductive surface ~~to which the voltage potential of the bus bar is applied; and in that~~

the connecting sleeve has a coupling electrode that is imbedded in the insulating material.

8. (New) The connecting sleeve of claim 1, wherein the connecting sleeve has a hollow center which encompasses the bus bar connection, and wherein the voltage potential of the bus bar is applicable to the inner, electrically conductive surface of the connecting sleeve.
9. (New) The connecting sleeve of claim 6, wherein the connecting sleeve has a hollow center which encompasses the bus bar connection, and wherein the voltage potential of the bus bar is applicable to the inner, electrically conductive surface of the connecting sleeve.
10. (New) The connecting sleeve of claim 7, wherein the connecting sleeve has a hollow center which encompasses the bus bar connection, and wherein the voltage potential of the bus bar is applicable to the inner, electrically conductive surface of the connecting sleeve.